

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /085 W

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R 291700Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5140

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, AG, LU

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE  
AND BOUTEFLIKA

1. PRIME MINISTER THORN, WHO IS PRESENTLY IN PARIS, ASKED  
HIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PAUL HELMINGER TO PASS ON TO ME THE  
GIST OF A PRIVATE CONVERSATION THORN HAD WITH BOUMEDIENE  
AND BOUTEFLIKA IN ALGIERS DURING THORN'S APRIL 25 AND 26  
VISIT TO ALGERIA TO INITIAL THE ALGERIAN/EEC COOPERATION  
AGREEMENT.

2. HELMINGER DESCRIBED THE CONVERSATION AS RELAXED AND  
INFORMAL, BUT SAID THORN HAD THE IMPRESSION THE ALGERIANS  
WERE SPEAKING WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS. BOTH BOUMEDIENE  
AND BOUTEFLIKA SAID RECENT EVENTS IN LEBANON PROVED  
CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE PALESTINIANS ONLY REAL FRIENDS  
ARE ALGERIA AND LYBIA. THE SYRIANS WERE CHARACTERIZED  
AS "TREACHEROUS" BECAUSE THEIR INTERVENTION IN LEBANON  
DENIED PALESTINIAN FORCES THEIR FIRST REAL FOOTHOLD AND  
TERRITORIAL BASE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.  
THEY ARGUED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE PLAYING "THE AMERICAN  
GAME" DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE CHRISTIAN ASCENDANCY  
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IN LEBANON.

3. SPECULATING ON THE FUTURE, THE ALGERIANS CONTENDED THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NECESSARILY CONTINUE THE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL UNTIL THE STATE OF ISRAEL WAS VANQUISHED. THEREAFTER, THEY FORESAW A MULTI-RELIGIOUS STATE, "BUT THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT LEBANON HAD BEEN", IN THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD DOMINATE. THE JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND OTHER MINORITIES WOULD HAVE A "FULLY PROTECTED AND EQUITABLE" MINORITY STATUS. THE PALESTINIANS, ONCE IN CONTROL, WOULD IN FACT NEED JEWISH TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW AND A SOLID BASIS FOR COOPERATION WOULD EXIST. BOTH BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA PREDICTED THAT ONCE THE PALESTINIAN STATE WAS ESTABLISHED THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NATURALLY FILL IN THE "VACUUMS" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WOULD ONE DAY DOMINATE WHAT IS NOW LEBANON AND THE GULF STATES.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO HELMINGER, THORN WAS SURPRISED AT BOTH THE FRANKNESS AND SINCERITY OF HIS ALGERIAN HOSTS. HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THEY FELT THEY WERE NOT SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE SELECTIVE IN THEIR LANGUAGE HAD THEY FELT THEY WERE. THORN THOUGHT THEIR VIEWS NONETHELESS WERE WORTH PASSING ON AS AN INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION THEIR THINKING IS CURRENTLY TAKING. PHILLIPS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LUXEMB00449  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760165-1009  
**From:** LUXEMBOURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976048/aaaaageb.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER THORN'S TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, EC, AG, LU, SY, IS, (THORN, GASTON), (BOUMEDIENE, HOUARI), (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006